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while up after this set. Mosquitoes are not in it when ants are in comparison.

While we were eating lunch a California Condor soared high up above the canon and gave me my first sight of this bird in life. I don't know, in view of circumstances which seem to condemn it to extinction, that I shall ever see it again.

We ascended the canon to its end and spent one of the happiest days of my life in Rubio. The gentle climate and new surroundings were exhilarating and it causes me a refreshing thought whenever I recall that day with M. in Rubio.

JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Lynchburg, Va.*

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### FIVE ACRES OF BIRDLAND.

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We had scarcely set foot within the five acre enclosure of the Ahtanum parsonage before I recognized its possibilities as a haunt for birds and determined to register them in the order of their appearance. The parsonage demesne is pleasantly diversified by the presence of a winding stream and plentiful shade. In fact, this five acre plot contains a little bit of every thing. In it are to be found a wheat field, a lowland meadow of wild grass, two alfalfa meadows, an upland pasture with salt grass, rye grass, and sage, a tule swamp, a rose brush thicket, abundant willows skirting the stream, a fine lawn sprinkled with box elders, maples and young elms, an orchard of thirty trees or so, and a garden. Besides these there are weedy tangles and brush heaps, such as birds delight in ; overgrown fence corners galore ; and best of all, "The Island," a low lying coppice which the creek almost surrounds and above which towers a numerous company of young balm trees.

On the first of June I set out to see how many birds would visit the enclosure within the year, or a given time. In pursuance of this plan the following rulings were established : On my fence is in my yard, and, Over my yard is in my yard. If the desideratum were very near and apparently in need of encouragement I did not scruple to assist nature by making a retreat into the parsonage lot seem more desirable than my approaching presence ; but further than that I did not pass the

bounds : even thus, birds that I thought I had a good right to escaped me. A certain Lark Sparrow would sing his heart out from one of the trees in an adjoining yard but he avoided me as if I were a kodak fiend. An ill favored Turkey Vulture passing up the valley on his daily round of inspection was always careful to give us a considerable berth. Of course we readily excused the omission on sanitary grounds. Many a time did I endeavor to "shoo" a Dusky Horned Lark, nesting in an adjoining back lot, within bounds, but all to no purpose. Finally, at the expiration of four months the bird came of its own accord, and came often, by way of asserting its independence.

Of course we had rare visitors. June 5th was a gala day at the parsonage, for although I mistook the name on the cards, at first, I soon made out *Townsend's Warblers*. The trouble was due to their high plumage. It was brighter, that is "higher," than Coues' description of it. Thus : In the adult male the crown was pure black, not jet black indeed, but still dead black, unstreaked, and most intense on the forehead. Instead of merely "jugulum black" most birds were black *clear up to the bill*, altho—and this is important—some birds were not. This extension of the black throat led me, carelessly enough, to assume *D. occidentalis*; but the other markings are positive and determinative. The bird is an exquisite and no mistake. Not less than a dozen spent the day with us in orchard and shade trees. The birds sang freely. The song was very much like that of *D. virens* in general character, only somewhat lighter and more varied. A returning bird was noted on August 23rd and he was still in song.

Other notables worthy of special mention are : Lutescent Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Least Sandpipers, MacFarlane's Screech Owl and Black-headed Jay. The latter was slipping through the country very quietly, knowing that he was about twenty miles off his beat.

The time covered by the following "yard list" is nine months ; for owing to removal from the parsonage in February it is not thought worth while to add those accidentally noted since March 1, 1900. The sixty-three species are recorded in the order of their occurrence.

## June 1-4.

1. Rusty Song Sparrow.
2. Western Chipping Sparrow.
3. Yellow Warbler.
4. Pileolated Warbler.
5. Western Yellow-throat.
6. Russet-backed Thrush.
7. Louisiana Tanager.
8. Mourning Dove.
9. Western Robin.
10. Western Meadowlark.
11. Barn Swallow.
12. Western Wood Pewee.
13. Goldfinch.
14. Lazuli Bunting.
15. Brewer's Blackbird.
16. Spotted Sandpiper.
17. Pine Siskin.
18. Wilson's Snipe.
19. Warbling Vireo.
20. Cowbird.
21. Cliff Swallow.
22. Kingfisher.
23. Cassin's Vireo.
24. Kingbird.
25. Western Kingbird.
26. Bullock's Oriole.

## June 5.

27. Townsend's Warbler.
28. Lutescent Warbler.
29. Western Vesper Sparrow.

## June 7.

30. Burrowing Owl.
31. Killdeer.
32. Red-winged Blackbird.
33. Tree Swallow.

## June 8.

34. Cedarbird.
35. Say's Pewee.

## June 9.

36. Brewer's Sparrow.

## June 10.

37. Western Nighthawk.
38. Crow.

## June 14.

39. Hammond's Flycatcher.

## June 16.

40. American Magpie.

## June 17.

41. Gairdner's Woodpecker.
42. Black-headed Grosbeak.

## June 26.

43. Red-shafted Flicker.
44. Spurred Towhee.

## July 5.

45. Oregon Chickadee.

## July 24.

46. Bank Swallow.
47. Calliope (?) Hummer.

## August 22.

48. Red-breasted Nuthatch.

## August 26.

49. Least Sandpiper.

## August 29.

50. Desert Sparrow Hawk.

## September 10.

51. American Pipit.

## September 11.

52. Audubon's Warbler.

## September 15.

53. Oregon Junco.
54. Inter. Crowned Sparrow.

## September 18.

55. Pigeon Hawk.

|                           |                           |             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| September 21.             |                           | October 15. |
| 56. Dusky Horned Lark.    | 60. Western Golden-crown- |             |
| September 24.             | ed Kinglet.               |             |
| 57. MacFarlane's Screech  | November 18.              |             |
| Owl.                      | 61. Northern Shrike.      |             |
| October 1.                | November 24.              |             |
| 58. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. | 62. Redpoll.              |             |
| October 4.                | February 16, 1900.        |             |
| 59. Black-headed Jay.     | 63. Green-winged Teal.    |             |

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### MOLTING OF TROCHILUS COLUBRIS.

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The molt as evidenced in a series of females of *colubris* offers quite a field for investigation. I have before me twenty examples of *Trochilus colubris*. It has been claimed that no molt is to be observed while the birds are here on their brief summer sojourn with us, but this is only correct in a measure, for certain it is that certain specimens taken in early spring differ widely from those taken later on and into the fall. The change is easily accounted for to an extent, when we remember that these birds perhaps reared their offspring, and in sitting upon their frail structures, protecting their young and their frail homes from the summer storms, very naturally, they more than ordinarily exposed their delicate plumage to wear. But however this may be viewed and giving it its full weight, there is something more than a change, due to these conditions, noticeable in some of the lingering specimens that are taken in the late fall, and attention of working ornithologists should be drawn to it. In this I hope that we may soon have some happy results. The study of the plumage of the juveniles is also interesting, the various stages of it, from the young fellow who is just discovering what his wings are intended for to the final stage of the ruby-throated gallant who flirts around in the sunshine amid the flowers, twittering and whirring his tiny pinions in the balmy air. The extremely young nestlings are no less interesting.

There is not much investigation done along these lines and only a certain class of scientific ornithologists take enough